

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2594

House Bill No. 2079*

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(a), is amended by deleting from the first sentence the words and punctuation "All regular ministers of the gospel of every denomination," and substituting instead the words and punctuation "All ministers or other religious leaders of every religious belief,".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(a), is further amended by designating the existing language, as amended, as subdivision "(1)" and by adding the following new language, to be designated as subdivisions "(2)" and "(3)":

(2) Provided, however, for a minister or other such leader to solemnize the rite of matrimony, the minister or leader must be ordained or chosen by or in conformity with the customs of a church, temple or other religious group or organization, the customs of which provide for ordination or the bestowing of leadership by a considered, deliberate, and responsible act, and the minister or leader must thereby be given the power to solemnize marriages for religious purposes.

(3) If any marriage has been entered into by license issued pursuant to this chapter at which any minister or other such leader officiated before the effective date of this act, such marriage shall not be invalid because of a defect in the minister's ordination or the means by which such leader was chosen.

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Domestic Relations Subcommittee Amendment No. 1 (by Halteman-Harwell)

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SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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